

# 2008 Census of Population of DPRK

## Key Findings

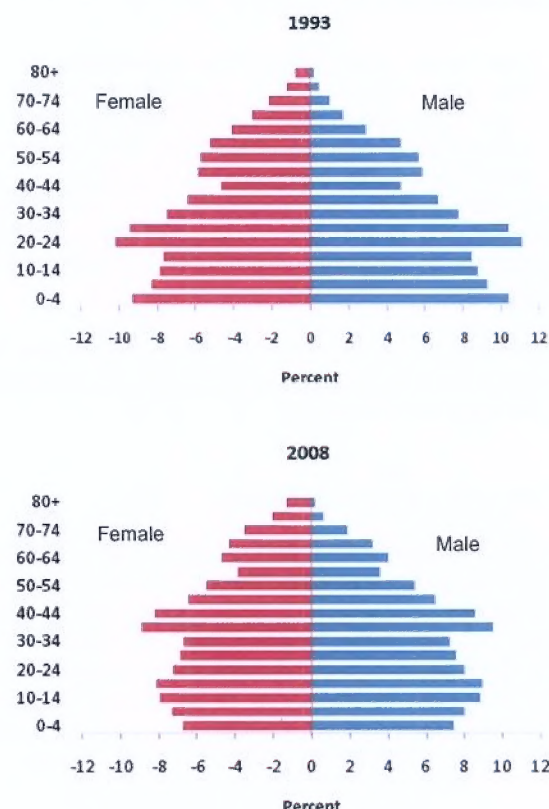
### Population Size, Growth and Distribution

- Total population increased by nearly 3 million indicating an average annual growth rate 0.85% during the period 1993 to 2008.
- Proportion of population living in urban areas has remained virtually unchanged in the last 15 years owing to the government's policy to maintain a balanced distribution of population.
- Female population presently constitutes 51.3% of the total population. Sex ratio of the population has not changed much since 1993. Sex balance could have improved even more if male survival ratios have caught up with those of the female.
- The age structure of the population changed from 'young' to 'old'. The proportion of children below age 15 declined while the proportion of the elderly population 65 years old and over increased. The elderly population now comprises nearly 8.7 % of the total population. This proportion is still much less than that of Japan and Italy, the two 'oldest' populations with about 20% of their population in age group 65+ but higher than that of China (8%) and India (5%). South Korea has a slightly 'older' population with 9.3%.

Selected Demographic Indicators:  
1993 and 2008

	1993	2008
Total Population	21,213,378	24,052,231
Male	10,329,699	11,721,838
Female	10,883,679	12,330,393
Sex Ratio	94.9	95.1
Average Annual Growth Rate	0.85%	
Percent Urban	60.9	60.6
Population 0-4	9.8	7.1
Population 0-15	28.5	24.9
Population 15-64	67.7	68.1
Population 65+	5.4	8.7
TFR	2.1	2.0
IMR	14.1	19.3
Life expectancy at birth		
Both Sexes	72.7	69.3
Male	68.4	65.6
Female	76.0	72.7
MMR	54.0	77.2

Age Structure of the Population: 1993 and 2008



- Fertility decline, which started sometime in the early 70's, has continued until recently but at a decelerating rate. In 2008, Total Fertility Rate (TFR) was about 2.0 – down from 2.1 which was observed in 1993. Late age at marriage and use of contraception are factors that contribute to fertility decline.
- Comparatively, mortality conditions now are not as good as they were in the early 1990's. For example, while in 1993, infant mortality rate stood at 14 per 1000 live births, the figure increased to 19 by the year 2008. Meanwhile, maternal mortality ratio increased by about 30 percent, that is, from 54 to 77 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.
- Due to the deterioration in mortality conditions, overall life expectancy at birth became 3.4 years shorter. Life expectancy among women is at least 7 years longer than that of men.



- What is encouraging to note, however, is that there has been a narrowing in the gap between male and female life expectancy.

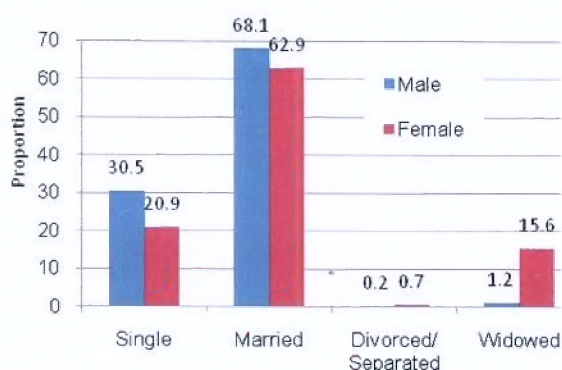
### Household Composition

- There were about 5.9 million households as of 2008 with an average size of 3.9 persons. About 31.5% of these households consisted only of a nuclear family with an average of 3.0 members. Extended families comprised another 66% of all household with an average size of 4.4. Other households (2.2%) are those which include non-relatives as members and households with only 1 member.
- Only one out of every 10 households is headed by a female indicating that the country is still a largely male-dominated society.

### Nuptiality and Marital Status

- Marriage is universal, that is, nearly everyone gets married at some point in his/her adult life. Although legal age at marriage is below 20, (17 for female, and 18 for male) median age at marriage is several years higher. Among the population who are currently in age-group 30-34, the median age at which they first got married was 28.4 and 25.6 for males and females, respectively.

**Marital Composition of Population 15 years and over**



- In the population 15 years old and over, there are proportionately more single and currently married men than women. However, the proportion of females who are in the widowed category (15.6%) is 13 times greater than the corresponding proportion for males. In absolute numbers, out of nearly 2 million women above age 60, 1.17 million are widows. These differences between male and female marital composition may be due to: higher age at marriage among male, greater tendency for

men than for women to re-marry when their spouses pass away, and higher male mortality rates. It may also be mentioned that the Korean War left behind many widows who may still be alive as of the last census (they should be in the age group 75 and over).

### Literacy and Education

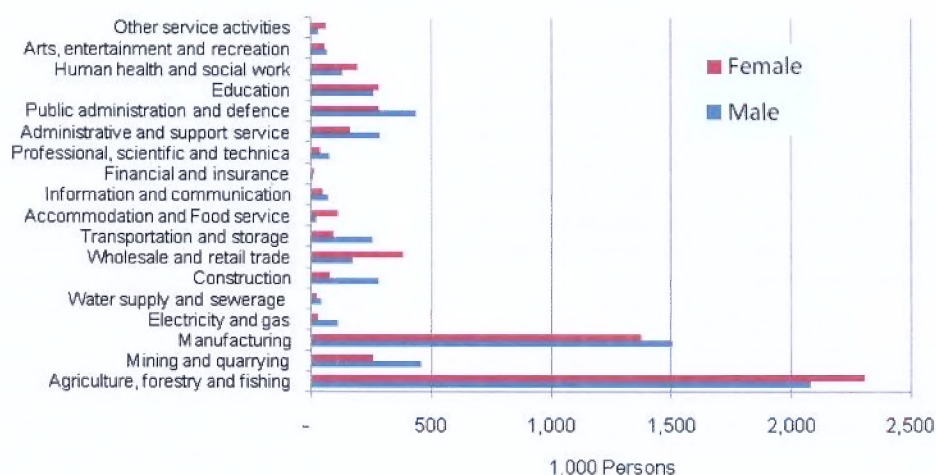
- The government places a high premium on the literacy and education of the people. As a result, literacy rate among the population 10 years old and over is nearly 100 percent. Thanks to the state's policy on free and compulsory education for 11 years, school attendance rate among children between 5 and 16 was also nearly 100 percent. This is the case for boys and girls alike.
- Males, however, seem to enjoy an advantage over their female counterparts when it comes to education beyond the secondary level, particularly, university level. One of every 7 men while only one of every 12 women above age 16 has completed university education, according to the results of the 2008 census.
- Engineering, Education, Agriculture, Health and Business Administration are the top 5 fields of specialization that Korean people study. One of these areas is the field of study of 72% of persons who studied past secondary education.
- Clear gender differences exist with respect to what one studies. Engineering, which is traditionally considered a man's field, is, not surprisingly, an academic area dominated by men. On the other hand, women dominate in the field of teacher training or education science.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishery is the second most popular field of study among men and it is followed by teacher training or educational science. For women, Health and Engineering are the second and third most common areas of study.
- It may be worth to mention that 77% of those with academic background in Health actually reside in urban area although urban population comprises only some 61% of the total. This may suggest that the urban population have better access to services of health professionals and associate professionals.
- Similarly, most persons with academic background in education also reside in urban areas since most of the institutes for higher learning are urban-based.

### Work Participation



- The civilian population 16 and over is about 17.4 million of which 12.2 million or 70 percent is working either in a government institution, state enterprise or cooperative farm/enterprise. A little more than 3 million persons have already retired from work. Close to 1 million persons reported doing household work as their usual activity. Nearly all of them were females.
- Work participation rate - that is, the proportion of individuals aged 16 and above, who are engaged in work - is significantly higher for males (79.5%) than that of females (62.2%).
- administration sectors each employ around 6% of the work force.
- There are more women than men working in agriculture. Of about 4.4 million workers in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 53% are women. Women also predominate in the small wholesale and retail trade sector.
- On the other hand, the sectors where male workers exceed in number are manufacturing, mining and quarrying, and in public administration.

Working Population by Industry



Working Population by Occupation



- Agriculture, forestry and fishing is the dominant industry followed by the manufacturing sector. Together, these two industries employ well over half of the total work force – 36% and 24%, respectively. Meanwhile, mining and quarrying, and public
- As far as the type of work is concerned, the results of the 2008 census indicate that nearly a third of the work force belong to occupational group of agriculture, forestry and fishery.

- Craft workers and machine operators or assemblers are other major occupational groups to which Korean workers belong. These two occupational groups account for 17% and 14%, respectively, of the total work force.
- Proportionately more women belong to agricultural occupations. Service and sales workers, likewise, are predominantly women. The ratio is such that for every 1 male service/sales worker, there are 14 women doing that type of work.

### Disability

- Disability data were collected in the census by asking individuals whether or not they had difficulty doing certain basic activities and the degree to which they did. Only a small proportion of the population reported some kind of disability – 2.5% is impaired with their mobility and 2.4% said they had problems with their sight. Even less proportions are those with hearing and mental handicap.
- For all type of disabilities on which data were collected, the females were reported to be more handicapped.

Proportion of Population 5 Years Old and Over with Disabilities			
	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Sight	2.4	2.1	2.7
Hearing	1.7	1.4	2.0
Mobility(Climbing/walking)	2.5	2.0	2.9
Mental Faculty	1.5	1.2	1.9

### Housing and Housing Facilities

- Housing is provided by the government free of charge. It is the responsibility of the state to provide housing to everyone. Hence, there is no homeless population.
- Housing units can be one or two story houses which are constructed as separate and independent structures or units in multi-story apartment buildings.
- Majority of households live in housing units with 2 rooms (65%) and in units with floor area that is between 50 to 75 square meters (73%).
- 85% of households have access to water into their dwelling units. Actual distribution of water is maintained and managed by people's committees at the *ri/up/dong level*.
- Flush toilet is available to more than half (58%) of all households. Another 35 % of households use pit latrine system. A small percentage (7%) use shared or public toilets.
- Coal is the main fuel used for cooking as well as for heating among households in the urban area. Rural households, on the other hand, rely mostly on wood for both cooking and heating. Of the total urban households, 63% use coal while another 28% use wood for cooking. On the other hand, among rural households, 77% use wood and 19% use coal.
- Only a tiny percentage of all households use electricity for cooking or for heating.
- 21% of households live in apartment buildings. Of these, about 4% have central heating system.